

Message Text

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ORIGIN EA-09

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 ACDA-07 PM-04 NEA-10 DODE-00 MC-02
EB-07 NSAE-00 USIA-06 TRSE-00 ERDA-05 CIAE-00 COME-00
/051 R

DRAFTED BY EA/IMS:WSSHEPARD:LGR

APPROVED BY EA - ROBERT H. MILLER

ACDA - E. FEI

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NEA - COL. HOBBS

DOD/ISA - MR. BLEAKLEY

EA/RA - COL. BAILEY

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FM SECSTATE WASHDC

TO AMEMBASSY SINGAPORE

C O N F I D E N T I A L STATE 012102

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, SN

SUBJECT: MC ADVISORY OPINION: AR-18 FACILITY IN SINGAPORE

1. THE ARMALITE CORPORATION HAS BEEN CONDUCTING NEGOTIATIONS WITH SINGAPORE (CHARTERED INDUSTRIES) AND HAS ASKED FOR AN ADVISORY OPINION ON WHETHER WE WOULD BE PREPARED TO LICENSE THE PRODUCTION AND SALE OF AR-18 AUTOMATIC RIFLES IN SINGAPORE. ACCORDING TO ARMALITE, THE GOS HAS "CATEGORICALLY" STATED THAT IT WILL NOT APPROVE THE ARRANGEMENT UNLESS THE USG GRANTS ASSURANCES THAT THERE WOULD BE NO OBJECTION TO SINGAPORE SELLING AR-18S IN THE FOLLOWING COUNTRIES: INDIA, PAKISTAN, SRI LANKA, BANGLADESH, BURMA, THAILAND, MALAYSIA, INDONESIA, PHILIPPINES, BRUNEI, TAIWAN, SOUTH KOREA, HONG KONG, AUSTRALIA, AND
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NEW ZEALAND.

2. WE NOTE THAT CHARTERED INDUSTRIES ALREADY MANUFACTURES M-16 RIFLES UNDER LICENSE FROM COLT. IT IS NOT CLEAR

WHETHER THE AR-18 WOULD BE PRODUCED SEPARATELY OR THROUGH EXPANSION OF THE EXISTING PLANT. GIVEN SIMILARITY

BETWEEN THE TWO RIFLES, WE WONDER WHETHER GOS IS THINKING OF SWITCHING OVER TO AR-18 FROM M-16 PRODUCTION. WE RECALL IN THIS CONNECTION PAST COLT-CHARTERED INDUSTRIES DIFFICULTIES.

3. USG HAS RESTRICTIVE ARMS POLICY TO SOUTH ASIAN COUNTRIES AND APPROVES SALES ON A CASE-BY-CASE BASIS. WE COULD NOT IN ANY EVENT AGREE TO BLANKET ADVANCE AUTHORIZATION OF SALES OF AR-18 IN UNLIMITED QUANTITIES TO SOUTH ASIAN OR EAST ASIAN COUNTRIES. SINCE ARMALITE LETTER INDICATES THAT ABSENCE OF THIS ADVANCE AUTHORIZATION WILL NEGATE AGREEMENT, QUESTION OF WHETHER WE WOULD OTHERWISE BE PREPARED TO APPROVE ARMALITE-CHARTERED INDUSTRIES PROJECT MAY NOT COME UP. BEFORE REPLYING TO ARMALITE APPLICATION ALONG ABOVE LINES, HOWEVER, WOULD APPRECIATE ANY COMMENTS EMBASSY MAY HAVE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
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Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: SALES, NEGOTIATIONS, ARMS EXPORT LICENSES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 19-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 01-Jan-1960 12:00:00 am
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
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Litigation History:
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Review Release Date: n/a
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TAGS: MASS, ESTC, SN, US, ARMALITE CORP
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